

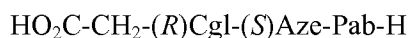
**Amendments to the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.**

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A cholesterol-lowering therapy method, which method comprises administering a cholesterol-lowering amount of melagatran:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate or prodrug~~ thereof to a patient in need of such therapy.

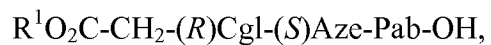
Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of Claim 14 wherein the therapy results in a decrease in serum levels of cholesterol, low-density lipoproteins, very low-density lipoproteins, triglycerides and/or apolipoprotein B; and/or an increase in serum levels of high-density lipoproteins and/or apolipoprotein A-I.

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of Claim 14, wherein the method comprises administering a prodrug of melagatran.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of Claim 14, wherein the method comprises administering a prodrug of melagatran, wherein the prodrug is of the formula:



wherein  $R^1$  represents linear or branched  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl and the OH group replaces one of the amidino hydrogens in Pab.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 19, wherein  $R^1$  represents methyl, ethyl or propyl.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of Claim 20, wherein  $R^1$  represents ethyl.

Claims 22-53 (cancelled)